

Tower Grove Park Stone House and Stable Complex
(Tower Grove Park Structures Thity-one X, Seven and Six)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-G

HABS
MO,
96-SALV,
46G-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

TOWER GROVE PARK STONE HOUSE AND STABLE COMPLEX
(Tower Grove Park Structures Thirty-One X,
Seven and Six)

HABS
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Location: Headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri.
The stable complex lies 1700' east of the Kings Highway Gate and 600' south of Magnolia Avenue on the north edge of the northwest drive.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 15.738500.4276640.

Present Owner: City of St. Louis

Present Occupant: (House) Park Security Guard.

Significance: The well-preserved structures are representative of mid-nineteenth century utilitarian architecture in the United States.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built in 1870 (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, p. 54, 7/13/1870). The stable was first built in 1886, burned and rebuilt in 1892 (TGP Board of Commissioners' Report, 1893, p. 368).
2. Architect: House: Probably Francis Tunica. Tunica received his salary as an architect during the course of the construction of these structures (Comp. 1868, p. 72, 10/5/70), and he signed the drawings of a stylistically similar structure constructed as a police office and now removed a few dozen yards south of the Park's north entrance; he appears to have been responsible for all of the non-ornamental structures built in the Park from 1868-1872. See HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137). He was paid the very substantial salary of \$2,000 a year, and was the only architect receiving payments, according to Shaw's extensive ledgers, during the construction of the North, East and West Gates and Gatehouse, the Superintendent's House, and the rest of the stable complex.
3. Original and subsequent owners: City of St. Louis. For description of property, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Brownlee & Fahee were paid \$1199.04 for building the house and stable, coping and three walls. 7/18/1870 (TGP check book May-July 1870, TGP Box III). The stable was roofed by Hull and Cozzens of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p. 76, 10/18/70). Lumber for construction was supplied by Eau Claire, also of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p. 122, 5/4/71). Richard Surranan was paid \$1071.25 for building stone at park stables 7/25/1870 (TGP check book July 19 - Nov. 9, 1870, MO-1137).

5. Original plans, construction, etc.: The house and stable cost about \$2,000 to construct (Comp. 1868, p.54. 7/13/70). An undated sketch of the complex exists in the TGP Misc. file, but may date from the 1892 re-erection after the fire in 1890.
6. Alterations and additions: A hayshed and stable designed by George I. Barnett and Son were added next to the house in 1885 (Comp. 1882, p.192, 7/10/86). During the summer of 1890, the stable and hayshed were destroyed by fire; they were rebuilt in 1892 at a cost of \$2,432.91 (Board of Commissioners; Reports, 1/93, p.367). In 1904, the stable and hayshed were reroofed (Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners, 1904, 1/10/21, 1/05/29, p.9-10. In 1928 two additions were made, wire fence at the stable side and rear, and a \$538.30 ornamental iron front fence. At this time, the hayshed was removed (Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners, 1928, 1/21/29, p.10.

During the Second World War, part of the stable was used as a Junior Achievement workshop (Annual Report of Board 1944-1946, p. 8.) There is no record of any extensive change to accomodate such a use until 1963, when the east section of the stable was revamped for a Girl Scout meeting room. The walls were then plastered, the wooden floor replaced by a concrete one and shelving and sundry equipment installed (Superintendent's Report for March 1963). The only other minor change was the replacement of the north door and backing of it with ten-gauge steel because of vandalism in March 1970 (Superintendent's report for March 1970).

In November 1970, a major rehabilitation project for the house was launched. Heating was to be installed by H. C. Furnace of St. Louis. for \$1107, utilizing gas lines put in by Laclede Gas Co. for \$604.

Electric wiring was supplied by the Greathouse Electric Co. for \$300. In December 100' of 3/4" waterpipe from the yard to the house was replaced; wallpaper was removed from the kitchen walls and ceiling; storm sash was ordered; rafters and studs installed in the summer kitchen as a preliminary to adding insulation and paneling; and the coal stove and hot water heater were removed. In January 1971 the floors were refurbished, and in March the front porch was shored up, the north smokestack removed, and the chimney capped (Superintendent's reports November 1970-March 1971).

In the fall of 1973, the north storage garage (#7) stable (#6) and driveways in the stableyard were improved. Perimeter concrete footings were added for structural security, new floors were added to the east sections of the buildings, roofs were repaired, and painting was done (Superintendent's report for November-December 1973).

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Comptroller Report Books 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888; Tower Grove Park (Checkbooks and Receipts and Vouchers for 1867-1899; the Reports of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898; Superintendent's Monthly reports 1960-1974; Tower Grove Park. Misc. file containing Tunica's qualifications and the sketch of the plan of stable complex are in the custody of park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney and probably will be transferred from her office at 4272 Magnolia Ave. to the Shaw Manuscript Collection in the Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri by the end of the summer of 1974.
- b. Deed Books: City Hall, Market St. St. Louis, Mo.

2. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____ St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____ St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____ St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis; R. P. Studley and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The simple stone cottage of rusticated appearance, matches the stable building in material and texture and adds to the naturalism and picturesque landscape of Tower Grove Park.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular shape, two-bays, two stories, with a north single story wing and shed addition.
2. Foundations: Stone for the building, brick piers for the front porch.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are composed of ashlar. The rough surfaced, irregular-sized gray stone blocks have beveled mortar joints. To the north is a shed addition of wood painted white.
4. Structural system: Load bearing walls for the house; wooden post and beam framing for the porch and north shed.
5. Porches. The front porch has a shed roof, fancy wooden trellises and railings painted tan. The wooden floor, reached by two steps is about two feet off the ground and is carried on brick piers.
6. Chimneys: There is one brick chimney with an iron stack at the end of the north wing.
7. Openings: All doors and windows are covered by storm doors and windows.
 - a. Doorways and doors. There are two east doors on the porch. The paneled left door is used as the main entrance, and has arched windows. There is a door on the north end.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The storm windows are hinged casements, with a number of lights equal to those of the sash windows they protect. Small arched windows are on the second story east and west elevations. Arched windows of four-over-four sash are on the first story of the west elevation and on both stories of the south elevation.
8. Roof.
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingles. The porch and north addition have shed roofs with green asphalt shingles.
 - b. Eaves: The soffit is painted tan. The gutters are painted green.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Center hall.
 - a. First floor: The entrance opens into the living room. To the right is a bedroom; to the left, a kitchen and a shed converted to a full bathroom.
 - b. Second story: There is a hall, front room, and toilet.

2. Stairway: Between the living room and kitchen is an enclosed stairway.
 3. Flooring: All floors are pinewood, tongue and groove, except the linoleum floor for the kitchen.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The living room walls are plastered, with wainscoting of vertical boards painted white. The bedrooms are plastered light gray. The kitchen is plastered white; the baseboards and doorway trim are of pinewood painted white.
 5. Decorative features: The bedroom fireplace on the north wall of first floor bedroom has molded pilasters and mantel shelf.
- D. Site: The stone house faces east toward the gravel driveway leading to the stable and storage behind. The wire fence which defines the compound for storage and maintenance stops at each end of the stable. The house lies just east of the North Gate at Tower Grove and Magnolia Avenues.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
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St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (STABLE)

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character: The simple functional stable building has shaped gable and an arched window over the central entrance.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One story, rectangular shape, six windows and one door front; seven bays (south front).
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: The body of the building is of ashlar limestone blocks and has a rough surface. There is smooth-cut and shaped stone coping along the top of front, and smooth cut voussoirs and sills for arched windows and doors.
4. Structural system: Load bearing walls.

-5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: In the south side, the central main entrance contains arched double doors. On the east and west ends are single-arched doors.
- b. Windows: South elevation contains six arched windows of one-over-one sash. There is one small blind window on west side, and one north blind window.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The slightly sloping built-up tar-roof has asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice eaves: There is a cornice of smooth cut stone coping on top of south wall.
- c. Gable: Over the main entrance is a shaped, pedimented, stepped gable with a center arched window opening.

C. Interior description:

1. Floor plan: The open rectangular plan has eight center posts creating nine interior bays. The first bay at the west end contains a hay ~~is~~ is ~~thoroughly divided from the others by a wooden wall.~~
2. Flooring: The floor is inlaid brick and concrete pad.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The rough stone walls are white-washed. The ceiling consists of exposed joints and is surmounted by wooden roofing, painted white.
4. Doorways and doors: The interior door surfaces are painted red.

- D. Site: The stable faces south toward the gate at the center of the enclosed wire fence compound. At the north and east of the stable are storage sheds; to the southwest stands the stone house. The complex lies 1700' east of the Kings Highway gate and 600' south of Magnolia Avenue and the north edge of the Northwest Drive.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
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National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983. -